PUNAHOU MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

## Wind Symphony

\*Wassail ...... MOVEMENT | FROM THE VAUGHAN WILLIAMS SUITE

Greensleeves: A Fantasia for Band...... MOVEMENT II FROM THE VAUGHAN WILLIAMS SUITE
SETTINGS BY ROBERT W. SMITH

The British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, was born in 1872 and died in 1958 at the age of 86. He enjoyed one of the longest and most successful creative careers in music history. As a member of the English Folk-Song Society, Vaughan Williams often went into the country to collect native folk music in its purest state. He felt very strongly that the rapid industrialization of the British Isles would result in the loss of these folk songs unless they were written down and introduced to a new generation. As a result, much of his writing was based on his study of folk songs creating a sound that characterizes British music.

The "Wassail Song of Gloucestershire" was one of the folk songs that Vaughan Williams chose to preserve through his writing. Capturing the spirit of the holiday season, he created a work for choir. Wassail is a centuries-old English ceremonial drink made of apple cider. The word "wassail" is Saxon in origin and translates to "good health" during the annual celebratory toast.

Beginning with a flowing solo statement by the flute, *Greensleeves: A Fantasia for Band* is another movement in the style of Vaughan Williams. The hauntingly beautiful melody flows in its original form. Using the original setting of "Greensleeves" as inspiration, the ancient melody is explored using the unique timbral colors of the concert band. (Robert W. Smith)

## **Iberian Escapades**

Written for the Boco Raton Band in Florida, Iberian Escapades was inspired by the resort architecture of Addison Mizner, whose Mediterranean-style estates launched a "Florida Renaissance" and inspired architects across North America. Mizner identified each of his Boco Raton villas with Spanish names, three of which are captured in this musical collage: El Mirasol (it watches the sun" is a fanciful Flamenco-style opening; El Solano (the east wind) presents exotic colors and romantic themes; and La Guerida (the bounty of war) ends the piece with an aggressive and energetic statement.

